

# THE Epistle from St. Paul



APRIL 2021

## Resurrection to Eternal Life

A good friend of mine was a director for a group who trained church leaders across six continents. (Darn you, Antarctica!) When he would interview applicants to work for the group, he would ask them to give him their “Christian elevator pitch.” What he meant by that was to have them share the gospel with him in under two minutes, on the spot, without preparation. He figured if they could do this, they were likely a good candidate for his group; if they could not, well... better luck next time.

If you had only two minutes to share your faith with someone, what would you include, and what would you leave out? Hopefully you’d include things like the Bible, the Trinity, the Creation, the Fall, the promise of a Messiah, the incarnation, the life and ministry of Jesus, and most certainly you’d include the death and resurrection of Jesus. You’d probably include a few personal faith details like your Baptism, when your faith in the mercy and grace of God in Jesus became “real” to you, and the ups and downs of being a follower of Jesus. Looking ahead, you’d probably include something about what happens to you when you die, and our ultimate hope of the resurrection of the body and eternal life in the new creation. If you could speak quickly, you might be able to include a few things like predestination, the

sovereignty of God, the sacraments, and the importance of worship and devotion to the Word of God.

But let’s say you didn’t have 2 minutes. Let’s say you had 10 seconds to give your “Christian elevator pitch,” 10 seconds to share your faith, what would you include—and what

would you leave out? You might be inclined to recite John 3:16 and call it a day. (You certainly could do a lot worse!) But John 3:16 doesn’t contain the most important events in all history: the death and resurrection of Jesus!



Here’s my on-the-spot, no preparation 10 second “Christian elevator pitch:” Jesus Christ

lived a perfect life, died on the cross, rose from the dead, and has all authority in heaven and earth. Because of him you are love and forgiven and will live forever!

I’m sure if I could have time to go back and edit this, I would find numerous ways to improve it, but I wanted to give you the on-the-spot version, so there it is—no edits or anything.

Why does all of this matter? It doesn’t, really, but a 2 minute pitch, or a 10 second pitch,

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# Change

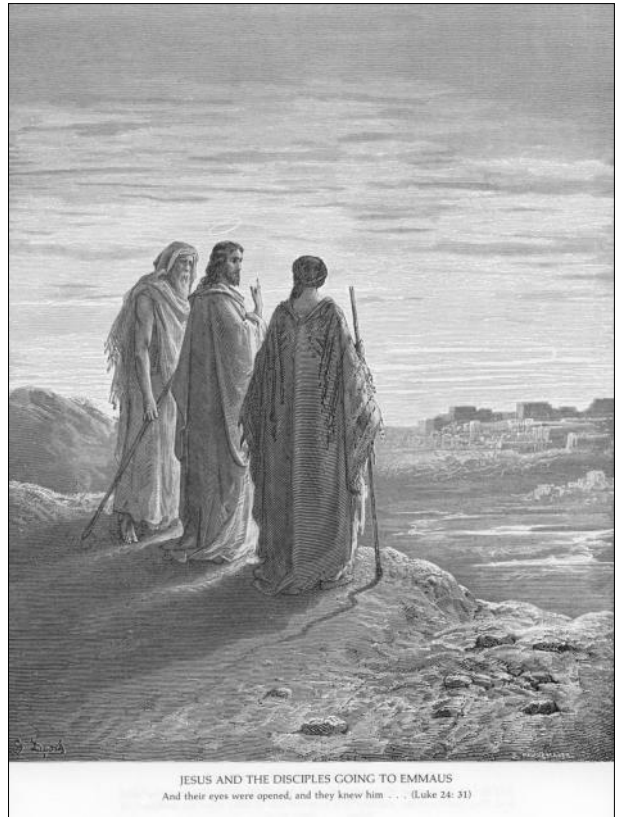
by Pastor Andrew Coop

There are probably some who read the title and chose to skip over this article for the simple reason that they don't like change. Others have read the title, and thought, "Let me know where, and I'll be there!" But the reason I chose to write on this topic this month is not to learn how you react to change, but rather to lead us to consider what an Easter narrative from Scripture has to teach us on how to deal with change, and to see the opportunities we will have to practice what we hear in God's Word in the coming days, weeks, and months.

Is there a day in all of history filled with more change than Easter? The Son of Man, Jesus the Messiah, did what He predicted He would do: HE ROSE FROM THE GRAVE! But it didn't just have lasting impact for Him and His life, but for ours today, as well. But, instead of focusing on a Resurrection account, I want to take us to Easter afternoon (Luke 24:13-35). Clopas and an unnamed disciple are journeying to Emmaus, which was about 7 miles from Jerusalem. As they do so, the risen Lord Jesus appears to them, but they are kept from recognizing Him. They let on to Him that things did not turn out as they had planned, saying, "*We had hoped that he* (Jesus—whom they are speaking with) *was the one to redeem Israel*" (v. 21).

The change they were looking for hadn't come, or so they thought. And this is what Jesus makes clear to them in His response to them, in verses 25-26, "*O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?*" If we stopped after these words of Jesus, we might assume that His teaching on how to deal with change is simply the command, "BELIEVE." But we, in and of ourselves, simply cannot do this. And it is for this reason, that we listen to what happens next, "*And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself*" (v. 27).

Simply put, **Jesus teaches His disciples to deal with change they are experiencing in their lives by listening to Him, and His Word**, which is always pointing to Him. Don't believe me, or think this is an isolated incident in Scripture? Consider the actions of the Disciples in the book of Acts. Consider the great change that takes place at Pentecost in Acts 2: people hear in their own native language the mighty works of God (v. 11)—maybe, just maybe, the Good News, Gospel message of Jesus. Afterwards thousands come to faith in Christ, through the proclamation of God's Word by the Apostle Peter, and repentance which brought about the baptism of these individuals (Acts 2:14-41). But, after all



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of that takes place, what happens next, in the following verse? *“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”* The first action that we hear the community of Christ doing in Jerusalem is LISTENING to the witness and testimony of the Apostles, or those who saw the Lord Jesus risen from the dead.

Let’s be honest, our congregation is going to see and face many changes this month, not only will we experience a new worship schedule, different from what we’ve been doing for almost a year now (for more on that, check out the Elder’s Report in the Epistle, and if you have any further questions, do not hesitate to reach out to your Elder), but we will also see Pastor Duncan leave to become the next Senior Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church and School, in Waconia, MN. This goes without saying, but not only will this be a loss for our congregation, this is going to be a loss for me—personally. The candor and friendship that you see between us each Sunday morning is real (neither of us are that good of actors), and I doubt it will be something that I experience again in my ministry. I too, along with you, have learned many things from Pastor Duncan; he has challenged me to become a better student of Scripture day in and day out, and has led me to see, many a time, how incredible our theology of “Scripture interprets Scripture” truly is.

So, on the cusp of many changes that we will experience together as the body of Christ, this month, and in the months to come, it is my hope and prayer that we follow the teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the example of the Disciples, and listen to the changeless Word of our God, in the midst of our ever-changing world.

In Christ,  
*Pastor Andrew*

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Vacation Bible School**

**June 14-18, 9:00am - Noon**

**For all children ages 4 - 7th Grade**

Plan now to attend and volunteer for this exciting Christ-centered week!





An open house for the McLellan family is planned for **Sunday, April 11** from Noon – 2:00pm in the FLC. There will be lunch of pulled meat sandwiches, chips, drinks and cake.

If you would like to contribute to a farewell gift for Duncan and Alissa, please drop your donation in the black box located in the Resurrection Window Hallway. Make checks out to St. Paul.

Pastor Duncan and Alissa’s last Sunday at St. Paul is April 11.

# Get a Fresh Start this Spring!

Learning how to reduce our anxiety and alleviate depression can help each of us enjoy a fresh start after 2020 was such a stressful year. If you or someone you know has experienced depression or anxiety, you are invited to attend Live Well Classes: Overcoming Anxiety or Depression. Classes are sponsored by the Ankeny Mental Health Ministry.

After completing one of these confidential, supportive, eight-week classes you will have developed six healthy lifestyle habits and will join the 90% who maintain a major reduction in symptoms.

Orientation is Monday, April 5 at 7:00pm at the Ankeny First United Methodist Church, 206 SW Walnut, north, lower level room 314. Weekly Monday evening classes will be April 12 - May 24. For more information or to reserve your seat, contact facilitator Jim White at 313-3701 or [jcjlwhite@live.com](mailto:jcjlwhite@live.com).

## Lutheran Laughs



# National Child Abuse Prevention Month

According to the most recent Iowa Department of Human Services data, 9,532 Iowa children were subject to abuse or neglect. The most common forms of abuse included denial of critical care, physical injury, exposure to illegal drugs or dangerous substance, and sexual abuse.

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) helps combat child abuse through prevention, safety, and stability services, as well as mental and behavioral health care.

Through regular in-home visits to families, LSI Early Childhood Services prevent child abuse by giving parents the support, education, and resources they need to build a healthy, stable home for their children. In 2020, our Early Childhood programs provided more than 18,000 in-home and virtual visits to families.

LSI Family Centered Services help children and families already involved in a crisis or abuse situation to become safer and more stable, and LSI's Bremwood and Beloit Residential Treatment Centers serve many children and youth who have experienced trauma from past abuse or neglect.

You can make a direct impact on these children and families through your support of LSI. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563-676-2065 or [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org).



# Evangelism Busy with Projects

We gathered on March 9 and assembled over 80 Easter cards for our shut-ins and elderly. Thank you to Eileen Anderson and Joy Wehmas for putting together the card materials. And thank you to everyone who assembled the cards. We received many favorable comments from nursing home residents and shut-in members.

We still need to encourage writing names on the cross and pray for this individual to join us in worship.

On Easter Saturday and Sunday we will be handing out the Matthew books along with bookmarks. Also there will be jelly bean bags for anyone who wishes to take them.

Once we resume church as before Covid, we are planning on some kind of visitor log so we can follow up with them.



We'd like to have some kind of trunk or treat event in October. We are looking forward to having the Big Rake again in the fall.

In Christ,  
*Lynn Hanselman*  
Evangelism Board Chairperson

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while entertaining to think about, reveals what we truly prize most in our faith. How many of those 120 or 10 seconds is about Jesus? How many of those minutes or seconds is about what he has done for us?

It matters because for the last four and a half years, one of the things I've tried to show you from Scripture—in sermons, Bible studies, devotions, and everyday conversation—is that our hope is not to die and go to heaven, but to be raised from the dead like Jesus was raised from the dead—to a life that cannot be destroyed. And that this resurrection will take place when Jesus returns and, in his words, makes all things new—gets rid of sin, the effects of sin, and the potential for sin, and that we can live life as it was meant to be lived: in fellowship with each other, and in the presence of our God. All of this he does out of his love for us; it does not require and merit or worthiness on our behalf.

One day, at a time Jesus calls “soon,” we will all be together in the presence of our God in a creation that is barely recognizable to the one we inhabit today. And we will live life as it was meant to be lived. And what we believe now by faith will be a dim shadow compared to the exceeding glory that our Lord will reveal to us in that day, and that we will enjoy for all eternity. Until then, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

In Christ,  
*Duncan McLellan*

# LWML Hosts Guest Speaker in April

Spring is finally here. Soon we will begin to see buds on our trees and flowers pushing up through the dirt. And spring means Easter! As we celebrate this Easter season, we once again rejoice that HE IS RISEN...HE IS RISEN INDEED.

## LWML Convention

Four ladies from St. Paul LWML are attending the LWML National Convention this June in Kentucky. They are Julie Hodges, Nancy Medick, Kathy Olson and Julie Stokke.

## April Gathering

Our next meeting is Tuesday, April 13 at 7:00pm in the FLC. We will have a guest speaker from New Horizon's Adult Day Center (they are moving into a new facility). New Horizon's mission is to enhance the quality of life for adults who are physically and/or cognitively challenged, by providing compassionate day services.

We ask that each of you bring either a package of toilet paper or kleenex to the meeting and we will also be taking up a collection to help support this mission.

Ladies will also enjoy Bible study, devotions, fellowship and a short business meeting. All ladies of St. Paul are welcome to join us and learn more about LWML!

Our hostesses for April are Karen Gerths and Malisa Davies. We look forward to seeing you.

In Christ,  
*Betty McConnell*  
LWML President



## April Mission Project



**We are collecting colored pencils and crayons for Moulton Elementary.**

Please place items on the LWML table.

## Lawn Mowers Needed

If you are interested in volunteering to mow the church lawn, please see the sign-up sheet located in the FLC hallway. You can also call the church office and Kathy will get you signed up.

If you need training on how to use the riding lawnmower or any other equipment, please contact Jim Harvey or another property board member.

# A Call to Waconia

“The report of my death was an exaggeration,” Mark Twain wrote in response to an article that portrayed him dying of poverty in London, England. Over the last several weeks, I have had several people speculate about the reason why I have accepted a Call to Trinity in Waconia, MN. I offer the following explanation to provide clarity and to help you better understand how at least one Pastor understands the Call and the Call Process, as you will begin the process for St. Paul in the coming months. Let me begin by saying that you are in good hands with Pastor Coop. I have enjoyed working with him (and all the staff) immensely, and trust that our friendship will survive the almost 4-hour distance between here and Waconia, as I am that it will for many of you as well.

About six months ago, I went to the District Office and told President Turner that it was difficult for me to do my job. As Senior Pastor, I wear one hat that says “Leader” and another that says “Pastor.” One of the tasks of my role as a leader is to recruit godly people to serve in leadership positions in the church. Over the last several years, a number of those who served in leadership dropped out or, at the end of their term, said “no” to future exposure to leadership positions at St. Paul. More than a few told me it was because of how they were treated by other members at St. Paul. Several have left the church over how they were treated. And so this presented me with a predicament: as a leader in the church, I should try to recruit good, godly leaders for leadership positions in the church. But as a Pastor in the church, I need to look out for the spiritual well-being of the members of the church. These two roles (Leader and Pastor) were in tension over whether I should try to recruit people to leadership positions in the church. And so I went to the District and told President Turner that I could not do my job as a leader in the church; I could not, in good conscience, encourage people to consider leadership positions in the church because I saw how serving in leadership had not been a good faith experience for quite a few people.

Shortly thereafter, I started being approached by congregations who were looking to call a Pastor. One of those congregations was Trinity, Waconia, who ended up extending me a Call. When a church “calls” a man to become their Pastor, they are saying, “we believe God wants you to become our Pastor.” And so when a Pastor receives a Call from another congregation, he must determine whether that congregation is right—that God wants him to become the Pastor of that church. Other things might make the accepting or returning of that call a positive or negative for him and his family, but to discern the Call is nothing more than answering: is the Calling Congregation right? Does God want me to become their Pastor?

At the end of the day, I cannot think of a reason why Trinity is wrong in saying God wants me to become their next Senior Pastor. While I had thought God would have brought our family to Ankeny for more than four and a half years; and while there is always ministry and mission to be done, fellowship to have, and friendships to enjoy, we believe he is calling us to Trinity in Waconia. I hope this helps explain a little bit more about the Call Process, and the heart our family has for so many of you, and our desire to follow what we believe is God’s call.

*Pastor Duncan*

# Change to Worship Service Times Begin in April

The Board of Elders decided on a plan to change weekend worship services beginning April 10-11. Please see the chart below for changes. Also, the Board decided to have mask-required services for the 5:00pm services on Holy Thursday and Good Friday, as well as the 6:00am and 7:00am Easter Sunday services.

We continue to work on the Elder Board's plans to be provided to the Planning Committee. We are planning to conduct a third phone-a-thon on April 11. We are hoping to get help with the calls from the Evangelism and Stewardship Boards. You can find names and contact information for all the church council and elders on the St. Paul website under the 'about us' tab.

## Transfer Out

Ryan, Megan, Harris, Kinley, and Liam Down to Gloria Dei Lutheran, Urbandale

## Transfer In

Samantha, Max, Maddy, and Mason Hayden from The Gate

Lori, Zach, Anna, and Nate Christiansen from The Gate

Aaron Christiansen from The Gate

Average Worship Attendance for February: 2021: 305 2020: 411

Average Worship Attendance YTD through February: 2021: 257 2020: 377

Total Baptized & Confirmed members: Baptized – 760 Confirmed – 608 Family Units – 305

In Christ,  
*Bob Peters*  
Head Elder

Beginning April 10, 2021 and ending June 1, 2021				
SATURDAY	SUNDAY			
(4:00pm—mask required service no longer offered)				
April 10–5:30pm (mask optional)	April 11:	8:00am—mask required; every other pew will be roped off	9:30am—mask optional, all pews available (no pews roped off)	11:00am—mask optional, all pews available (no pews roped off)
April 17–5:30pm (mask optional)	April 18:	8:00am—mask required; every other pew will be roped off	9:30am—mask optional, all pews available (no pews roped off)	11:00am—mask optional, all pews available (no pews roped off)
April 24–5:30pm (mask optional)	April 25:	8:00am—mask required; every other pew will be roped off	9:30am—mask optional, all pews available (no pews roped off)	11:00am—mask optional, all pews available (no pews roped off)
May 1–5:30pm (mask optional)	May 2:	8:00am—mask required; every other pew will be roped off	9:30am—mask optional, all pews available (no pews roped off)	11:00am—mask optional, all pews available (no pews roped off)
May 8–5:30pm mask optional)	May 9:	8:00am—mask required; every other pew will be roped off	9:30am—mask optional, all pews available (no pews roped off)	11:00am—mask optional, all pews available (no pews roped off)
May 15–5:30pm (mask optional)	May 16:	8:00am—mask required; every other pew will be roped off	9:30am—mask optional, all pews available (no pews roped off)	11:00am—mask optional, all pews available (no pews roped off)
May 22–5:30pm (mask optional)	May 23:	8:00am—mask required; every other pew will be roped off	9:30am—mask optional, all pews available (no pews roped off)	11:00am—mask optional, all pews available (no pews roped off)
May 29–5:30pm (mask optional)	May 30:	8:00am—mask required; every other pew will be roped off	9:30am—mask optional, all pews available (no pews roped off)	11:00am—mask optional, all pews available (no pews roped off)

Beginning June 5, 6, all services return to pre-COVID-19 schedule, Masks are not required			
SATURDAY	SUNDAY		
5:30pm	8:00am Service	9:30am Bible Class and Sunday school	11:00am Service

# Looking Ahead at 2021 Youth Events

## Easter Bake Sale

In a typical year our youth and youth parents host an Easter breakfast. Because of COVID we have decided not to hold a sit-down breakfast this year. Instead we are holding an Easter bake sale before and after services on April 3 and 4. The bake sale will be a free will offering. All proceeds help send St. Paul youth to gatherings.

**Youth parents please mark your calendar for these upcoming dates!**

### National Youth Gathering Information Meeting

Sunday, April 11 at 4:00pm there will be a National Youth Gathering informational meeting for youth in **grades 8 through 11** and their parents. The 2022 NYG in Houston is a great opportunity for youth to be in fellowship with other Christian youth from around the United States and internationally! If you are interested but unable to make the meeting please contact Malisa Davies.

### Youth Group

Wednesday, April 14

5:30pm - 6:30pm Jr. Youth

7:00pm - 8:30pm Sr. Youth

Wednesday, May 12

5:30pm - 6:30pm Jr. Youth

7:00pm - 8:30pm Sr. Youth

### District Junior Youth Gathering

Saturday, October 23 through Sunday, October 24

Location: Sheraton West Des Moines

Focus: Ten Commandments

### District Senior Youth Gathering

Friday, November 19 through Sunday, November 21

Location: Airport Holiday Inn Des Moines

Theme 2020 - Faith Fix Our Eyes - Run the Race

Thank you for supporting our youth at St. Paul. If you need more information on any upcoming events or would like to volunteer with our youth events, please contact me via email at [malisadavies@gmail.com](mailto:malisadavies@gmail.com) or phone at 515-240-3687.

In Christ,

*Malisa Davies*

Youth Board Chairperson



# February Council Meeting Minutes

Gary called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm. In attendance: Tim Krehbiel, Pr. Coop, Dean Miller, Malisa Davies, Cindy Twedt, Bob Peters, Alyssa Wendzel, Ben Piepho, Gary Lohmann. Pr. Coop lead a devotion, and led in prayer. How have we been blessed? No responses. Approval of January minutes, moved by Lynn, seconded by Tim. Approved.

DCE Call: Jon Jero spoke to the status of the DCE call. The committee met last week and voted to call Jessica Blocker as our new DCE. Ben asked for qualities of the candidate. Jon spoke to her creativity, especially during Covid, her love of working with children, organization and writing skills. Overall, a very solid candidate to call. Lynn asked what the next step is. Gary indicated the next step would be to hold a special voters meeting slated for Feb. 28. The constitution requires a one week notice to voters. Information on the candidate will be compiled and provided to the voters prior to the voters meeting for review. Planning on utilizing a similar meeting style as we did in November for the last voter's meeting to social distance. Will be Zooming and holding in-person. Alyssa W. asked Jon questions about the candidate. Jon said the committee did not see concerns. Cindy and Malisa also spoke to the quality of the candidate. Jon stated that references were also contacted and Jessica's references were all very positive and the other candidate had some less than positive feedback. Gary identified the importance to get the call papers ready. Gary asked for a vote to approve presenting to the voters the recommendations from the DCE committee and schedule the meeting on Feb 28. Cindy motioned, Malisa seconded. Alyssa voted no, all other council members voted yes. Motion passed.

Update on Sudanese Congregation: Dennis Shaltanis provided history of its existence. They initially located at Trinity in Des Moines. They came to faith through Presbyterian missionaries back in Africa. When they relocated to the US, they had little with them except their Bibles. The congregation elected Simon Yeich to study the faith and become ordained as their minister. In October 2020, Pr. Simon lost his battle with cancer and the congregation found themselves without a minister. Elder, James Both, has offered to assume the role after he has been trained through the EIIT program of the LCMS, with guidance from McLellan. Dennis is asking Council and the congregation of St. Paul to financially support James in his training. The cost will be split 3 ways between the IDW, Seminary and the congregation. The Sudanese are not financially capable to support James, so Dennis is asking for St. Paul's assistance. They can't afford to pay a pastor. Pr. Simon did not receive a salary. He supported his family by taking odd jobs. Dennis is proposing: "St. Paul supports this education for James by establishing a fund and encouraging members to consider contributing to this fund during the two years (four semesters) of James' education. Individuals and organizations in the church could participate; contributions could be made by the "Designated Offering" envelope, or placed in the offerings in a plain envelope with your contributor number noted. The total needed contributions by St. Paul for the two years of this program will be an estimated \$8,800. All gifts would be tax deductible. This would be a great mission goal and opportunity for St. Paul." Bob Peters offered a motion, "I move that we approve a congregational fund raising effort for the Sudanese Ministry to provide financial support for their Elder, James Both, in his vicarage through Concordia Seminary St. Louis, as a participant in its (EIIT)\* program. Concordia Seminary & Iowa District West are also helping finance James' education so he is able to be a Minister to the Sudanese Congregation. The goal of this effort is to raise a minimum of \$4,000 for the first year of his two year program. If we exceed that goal, the extra funds would initially be applied to his second year of the program and then to other financial needs of the Sudanese Congregation. \*Ethnic Immigrant Institute Training." Ben seconded the motion. Tim asked if it would make sense to amend the motion to a restricted fund to support the Sudanese Congregation beyond the timeframe asked for. Gary said yes, but would like to get us started with the initial fund-raising and then once we've met this monetary goal, then change it to a restricted fund. Voted on motion. All approved. Bob also offered a second motion which read, "I move to approve James Both as the responsible member of the Sudanese Congregation for the use of the St. Paul facility in that he will secure the facility during and at the completion of the Sudanese services." Tim seconded. Gary explained this would keep us in line with our Facilities Use Policy. Pr. Coop asked if James had knowledge of how to lock the doors? Dennis wasn't sure but would ask that and train him if needed. Voted on second motion. All approved.

Senior Pastor Report: Absent. Report in Dropbox.

Associate Pastor Report: Full report in Dropbox, but some highlights are we will be using the big cross that was used in the Narthex a few years ago for names of people we pray for. Also, bought 200 Gospel of Matthew books to be handed out to people we invite to join us in service, or who just do not know Jesus. Also, please consider the DCE call and the McLellan's in your prayers.

Gary asked for a motion to accept staff reports. Malisa motioned. Ben seconded. Approved.

Elders Report: Full report in Dropbox. Bob mentioned during the last meeting they discussed goals for elders. Membership changes have been updated in Dropbox for review. Those changes are: received, Mark and Barb Lauthen, Yvonne McLellan, Calvin Uhlig, Ken Wise, the Thomas family and the Fairchild family; deaths, Jerold Johnson and Lois Oster; baptism, Luke McLellan. Lynn pointed out it should be Ken Kise, not Ken Wise in the report. Bob will make the change.

**Treasurer Report:** Dean reported that the outsourcing company is still working on January financials. He also reminded the council that in December we voted to bring to the voters a restricted fund for the music ministry. Can we bring that to a vote in the special meeting on Feb. 28? Gary answered, yes. Ben asked if the financial reports would be available prior to the Feb. 28 voters meeting? Dean replied, yes. Malisa asked if they will always be delayed? Dean will work with the company to get them in a timely manner. Gary asked for approval of council reports. Tim motioned to approve. Lynn seconded. Approved.

**Education Report:** Full report in dropbox. Cindy stated Children's Church and Midweek continue as they have, but plan for Midweek to go weekly after spring break. Education discussed goals for 1, 3 & 5 years. Noted goals include hiring a DCE, getting programs back to normal, and planning/fundraising for an Ed wing. Alyssa asked what the Ed wing was? Cindy explained Ed still needs space and since we're not buying land in the near future we would like to re-start the conversation about adding an education wing again as part of our goals to add classrooms somewhere.

**Evangelism Report:** Full report in dropbox. Lynn commented that she had heard from a few new people that St. Paul wasn't that friendly of an environment, and said we need to do better. She asked that people reach out to new faces and be more welcoming. She also asked if we were reaching out to people who haven't been coming? Ben asked if we should do another call-a-thon? Bob said elders can discuss again. Cindy added to Lynn's comment by saying she believed the turning point was when we stopped ushering out. When we ushered out, we could turn around and talk to new faces, and connect with fellow members. Now we see who can be the first ones out of the sanctuary. And it's only gotten worse with COVID. Ben asked if we can keep attendance again? Lynn would like to start using the attendance cards again so they can make contact with visitors again. Coop spoke to the fact it's hard to track the online viewers. Ben asked how we can track those coming. Coop said to just ask him. Coop provided the last two lists for the phone-a-thon. Ben would be supportive of another phone-a-thon as the last one was in December. Bob was happy to do that and asked for Evangelism and Stewardship to help again. Tim and Lynn both said yes, and to let them know when it will be.

Gary clarified his statement last month when he asked Council to call members they haven't seen for a while. Council should be reaching out outside a phone-a-thon.

**Finance Report:** Kaleb was absent. No report.

**Property Report:** Jim couldn't make the meeting, but told Gary the classroom partition should be installed in a few weeks. Tim stated lights are in and look really nice.

**Stewardship Report:** No report yet, meeting was just last night. Tim stated it was a good meeting; discussed goals with Amber, planning member. A lot of good ideas for this coming summer, such as an outdoor service. Would like to focus on quarterly events. Maybe something to tie into VBS. Bible Trivia, possibly in March. Working on the online directory and updating time and talent sheets. Looking at what stewardship is biblically. Good discussion from the meeting.

**Youth Report:** Full report in dropbox. Malisa talked about their goals, and how to get kids and parents more involved. Will be holding an informational meeting for the National Youth Gathering in March. Will be hosting an Easter bake sale as a fundraiser. Youth group is moved to Sundays during Lent, but will return to Wednesday nights afterwards.

**Preschool Report:** Full report in dropbox. The board is hoping to offer some outside events when the weather warms up. Have had several parents join in Chapel.

Motion to approve board reports by Ben, seconded by Bob. Approved.

## **Old Business**

**Planning Committee:** First meeting was held and everyone was excited to work with their designated boards. Asked boards to look at the 5 year goals and work back to the 1 year goal and then how to accomplish that. Will discuss how we can work together as boards to accomplish these goals. Will be presented at the voters meeting in May. Bob mentioned one of the comments he got was how do we make goals for the next chair/board if we only have 2 year terms? Ben said to think of it as if it is your goal, to take ownership and pave that way for the next chair/board to work from. Gary handed out a paper comparing membership at St. Paul vs. Ankeny's growing population. He said as you are formulating goals, keep in mind how to accomplish these goals here at 1100 SE Sharon because as of now the purchase of land is not in the future. Look at how you can accomplish these goals here. Table showed we are basically a non-growing congregation for the last 10 years and membership is still declining. Some of those are explainable, such as the start of the Gate, and pandemic, but this is not an issue for the pastors to fix. What can WE do to turn this around? Again, Lynn touched on the fact that we're not friendly. We need to change that. We need to work on how to get people involved and keep people developed to step into leadership roles. Reach out to people in the congregation and make them feel valuable.

## **New Business**

**Nominating Committee:** Gary is appointing Ben, as chair, and Bob Peters and Tim Krehbiel as committee members. Gary recommended Amber Giese as the 4th member. Motion to add Amber to the committee by Ben, seconded by Dean. Approved.

Adjourned at 8:13 p.m. Closed with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cindy Twedt

# Council President's Comments

April 2021 a Time of Transition and Opportunity

For the seventh time in the history of St. Paul a pastor is leaving our congregation, this time with Pastor McLellan accepting a call to Trinity Lutheran Church in Waconia, MN. We hope that Pastor Duncan enjoys his new ministry and I'm sure that there will be opportunities for us to celebrate with him before he departs Ankeny.

I hope, however, in this month's Epistle to focus on the opportunity and congregational needs for your support as we transition through the next few months. District President Turner and our elders will be meeting on 8 April 2021 to help develop a formal plan to assist Pastor Coop as he assumes a new leadership role at St Paul. The following things are beyond that plan and are opportunities for us to support our congregation during this period of transition.

First and foremost, pray for Pastor Coop and our membership as we begin this new journey. Second, please consider worship and service opportunities as we start the transition into our revised pastoral leadership.

If you haven't been attending church due to COVID 19 concerns, know that we're still having live services in a safe manner with plans for a new service schedule after Easter. We hope, particularly, during the Lenten season leading up to and including Easter you'll join us in worshipping our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. St Paul continues to livestream one Sunday morning service.

Finally, please look for a personal service opportunity by contacting your elder or a member of the church council to see where you can assist Pastor Coop in ministering to our members. Contact information for elders and council members can be found on our church website under.

I feel that this is a special opportunity to serve our shut-in or inactive members who may appreciate hearing from their friends at St Paul. It's hoped that the Lord guides and supports you in keeping our ministry alive and healthy.

The next regular church council meeting is Tuesday, April 20 at 6:30pm in the FLC.

Yours, in Christ,  
Gary Lohmann

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## St. Paul Lutheran Preschool Happenings and Updates

March was a short month for the preschool. The preschool started off the month by celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday. Then teachers taught about the joys of Spring, that led into teaching about the importance of fire safety. There was a giant fire truck with dress up firefighter gear in the dramatic play area. The preschoolers loved playing firefighter!

Then there was a short break from March 12-19 (spring break). Both students and preschoolers were excited to come back to school after spring break and share all the fun things they did! Once students came back from spring break, teachers began discussing Palm Sunday, Holy week, and Easter.

Respectfully submitted by,  
*Alyssa Wendzel*  
Preschool Board Chairperson



# APRIL 2021

## Baptism Birthdays

## April Birthdays

### ELDER OF THE WEEK

04:  
11:  
18:  
25:

01: Walker Allen

Andrew George

Morey Juhlin

Jane Thompson

03: Kalvin Heflebower

Darwin Rohlfen

04: Matthew Madsen

Jim Tunner

Erin Wiebelaus

05: Kari Rutter

06: Kevin Meissner

07: Jacob Hubbard

Rod Silvey

08: David Brown

Samuel Remington

09: Rose Hoffman

10: Roger Link

Walt Snommen

11: Michael Moretti

12: Lucas Anderson

Larry Banwart

13: Parker Grant

Susan Marshall

Kay Mueller

Julianne Sturtz

14: Colleen Anderson

15: Randy Anderson

Anneta Bradley

Amber Giese

Sullivan Swalla

16: Nate Christiansen

Georgia Minsfeldt

Andrew Rohrer

17: Jennifer Boeding

Lola Eastman

18: Irene Griffin

Tom Moretti

19: Madalyn George

Don Nennitz

20: Kalven Hanken

Ryan Rutter

21: Mardi Mortensen

Randy Sunderman

22: Nancy Harvey

Grace Silvey

23: Malisa Davies

Ryan Marshall

Rachel Olson

Bryce Smith

Kate Turner

24: John Haase

Artan Jans

25: Maxwell Zoss

Kalyn Griffin

Tim Maier

27: Erwin Aswegan

28: David Kottowski

No day given:

Doe Davidson, Jennete

Swalla, Josh Swalla.

01: Alivia George

McKenna Irmeier

02: Sam Acton

Dean Miller

Terry Moeinke

04: Timothy Fairchild

05: Joel Ort

06: Jake Madsen

Jeff Meissner

Benjamin Fairchild

Dave Hempen

Tanner Marvin

Don Strattman

08: Hadley Nuetzman

Ryan Rutter

09: Anisa Hansen

10: Lorelli Matz

11: Sarah Bailey

John Haase

Charlotte Hancock

Deb Jans

Larry Loring

Rachel Olson

Wanda Stave

12: Barb Pitenger

13: Sandra Krause

Nicole Powell

14: Hannah Crawford

Nathan Doering

Zachary Doering

Lindsay Trueblood

15: Claire McGowan

16: Ella Ansan

Chad Heflebower

17: Beth Banwart

Jennifer Boeding

18: Julia Chesnut

Sam Dunker

Peyton Rangen

Sienna Townsend

19: Betty McConnell

Jace Patten

Jarrod Thomas

Autumn Zogg

20: Thomas Brunelle

Levi Kisker

Luke Kisker

Christian Rangen

21: Miranda Mumm

22: Jack Dorfier

23: Joseph Ausan

Katie Harris

24: Julie Krethbiel

Amy Linn

Alexandria Wendzel

26: Polly Anderson

Aaron Christiansen

27: Gavin Boeding

James Dorfier

Morgan Heflebower

28: Jack Brunelle

Kaylee Fornoff

Linkin Hanken

Sean Meissner

Magnus Petritz

29: Emerson Hayden

Anthony Miller

Jennete Swalla

Sandy Townsend

Maci Winkelmann

30: Meryn Smith

Morgan Wiebelaus

30: Meryn Smith

Morgan Wiebelaus

## Wedding Anniversaries

01: Paul & Jeri Wendzel

02: Phil & Lois Eshtelman

07: Rich & Chris Wood

08: Larry & Ceone Anderson

09: Dave & Terrie Hempen

Art & Doris Olson

12: Jason & Doreen Buts

Ken & Betty McConnell

14: Ray & Eileen Anderson

15: Richard & Toni Billings

15: Roger & Donita Link

16: Tim & Julie Krethbiel

19: Dan & Melissa Rud

Jeff & Shelly Wangness

23: Carl & Anneta Baker

24: Todd & April Winters

25: Jon & Karen Gerthls

26: Ryan & Mackenzie Rutter

30: Matthew & Jenni Madsen

# April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div> To sign up for Easter Sunday worship service please go to our website and click on the link, or call the church office at 515-964-1250. </div>						
<b>4 Easter Sunday</b> <b>Worship Services</b> ^ Sign up required ^ 6am* & 7am* 8am, 9am, 10am, 11am  Noon Sudanese Worship 6:00pm Easter Acoustic Praise Service	<b>5 Offices Closed</b>  6:30pm GriefShare	<b>6</b> 9:30am Staff Meeting	<b>7</b> 9am Chapel w/ Holy Communion 4:00-5:30pm Midweek 4:00-5:30pm Confirmation	<b>8 Holy Thursday</b> 9:30am Ladies Bible Study <b>Worship Services</b> 5pm*, 6pm, 7pm	<b>9 Good Friday</b> <b>Worship Services</b> 5pm*, 6pm, 7pm, 8pm No Preschool	<b>3</b> 5:30pm Easter Vigil Service in FLC
<b>11</b> <b>Worship Services</b> <b>8am*, 9:30am, 11am</b>  Noon Sudanese Worship Noon-2pm Farewell Open House for McEllans 2:00pm Homebuilders 4:00pm NYG Meeting	<b>12</b> 6:30pm Board Meetings 6:30pm GriefShare	<b>13</b> 9:30am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Elders Meeting 7:00pm LWML	<b>14</b> 9am Chapel w/ Holy Communion 4:00-5:30pm Midweek 4:30-5:30pm Confirmation II 5:30-6:30pm Jr. Youth Group 7:00-8:30pm Sr. Youth Group	<b>15</b> 9:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm BSF 7:00pm Men's Fellowship & Bible Study	<b>16</b> No Preschool	<b>17</b> 5:30pm Journey Service in FLC
<b>18</b> <b>Worship Services</b> <b>8am*, 9:30am, 11am</b>  Noon Sudanese Worship 2:00pm Homebuilders 7:00pm Zoom Bible Study	<b>19</b> 6:30pm GriefShare	<b>20</b> 9:30am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Council Meeting	<b>21</b> 9am Chapel w/ Holy Communion 4:00-5:30pm Midweek 4:30-5:30pm Confirmation II	<b>22</b> 9:30am BASIC Bible Study 6:30pm BSF 7:00pm Men's Fellowship & Bible Study	<b>23</b> 	<b>24</b> 5:30pm Journey Service in FLC
<b>25</b> <b>Worship Services</b> <b>8am*, 9:30am, 11am</b>  Noon Sudanese Worship 2:00pm Homebuilders 7:00pm Zoom Bible Study	<b>26</b> 6:30pm GriefShare	<b>27</b> 9:30am Staff Meeting	<b>28</b> 9am Chapel w/ Holy Communion 4:00-5:30pm Midweek 4:30-5:30pm Confirmation II	<b>29</b> 9:30am Ladies Bible Study 6:30pm BSF 7:00pm Men's Fellowship & Bible Study	<b>30</b> 	<b>*mask required</b>